



Friday 26th June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Mobile Phones Policy for September 2026 onwards

Thank you for your responses to our consultation on mobile phones. For reference, the letter I sent out earlier this year is linked [here](#). I have set out below a summary of the parent responses, followed by our decision and policy approach.

Summary of parent responses

Many valid points were raised, from which the main points are summarised below:

- There was much support for the move away from smart phone/device access and use for young people.
- Many parents commented on the desire to use existing smart phones/devices for GPS tracking of their children or to enable contact at the beginning or end of the day.
- Some parents said that they should not have to buy a second ‘brick’ phone to keep track of and make contact with their child.
- Some parents felt that their child completes homework, revision and other productive activities on the bus to and from school.
- A higher percentage of parents of incoming Year 7 students supported a complete ban.
- There were concerns about the practicality and cost of electronically locking Yondr style pouches.

School decision

Considering our research and the feedback obtained from parents, students and staff, neither of the original proposed options are practical. Our policy position from 1st September is set out below.

Farmor's School Mobile Phones Policy from 1st September 2026

<p>Students who will be in Year 7 from September 2026</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students are not permitted to bring smart phones/devices into school. • Brick style phones can be brought in and stored in bags or lockers (never in pockets or coats) and must be switched off all day: from arrival in the school car park to the end of the school day at 3.20
<p>Students who will be in Years 8-11 from September 2026</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The default position is that students are not permitted to bring smart phones/devices into school. • Brick style phones can be brought in and stored in bags or lockers (never in pockets or coats) but must be switched off all day: from arrival in the school car park to the end of the school day at 3.20. • Parents and carers with a specific requirement for their child to bring a smart phone/device into school can fill in an online form which will: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. record clearly the reason for this decision (this is for information gathering and will not be challenged); and

	<p>2. provide the school with reassurance that parents/carers understand that the device must be switched off all day and stored in a bag/locker only, and they support the consequences and sanctions which we will be put in place in the case of breaches.</p> <p>The link to the required form will be sent out to parents of next year's Y8-11 students in a subsequent message later in Term 6.</p>
Consequences and sanctions for a smartphone/device/brick phone not switched off and stored as above	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent or carer must collect phone/device from school from main reception. • After School Detention issued for first offence. • Internal exclusion (1 day) issued for second offence. • Suspension (1 day) issued for third offence and offences thereafter.
Emergencies during the school day Year 7-11	School staff will contact home if there is an emergency during the day. Please contact main reception if there is an urgent matter that needs communication to your child; this will be passed on to your child by staff.
"Off and in bags"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Off: Means completely off – not just on silent or in 'flight' mode. This meets the DFE requirement of 'not accessible' because smart devices take some time to be fully switched off and back on. This is easy to demonstrate if a phone is found or seen. • In bags: The 'brick' phone (or smart phone/device if parent exemption form completed) must be stored in a bag or locker all day – never anywhere else, for example in a pocket or coat.
What is a 'smart phone/device'?	<p>This includes, but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phones that can access the internet and social media apps • Smart watches that can access the internet or a stowed phone • Smart glasses
Sixth Form	There will be a separate communication to sixth form students and parents, alongside an update to the sixth form code of conduct.

We will be communicating this policy to students in assemblies in the coming weeks. Whilst we do not have a significant problem with phones presently, we are sure that this strengthened position will raise our standards even further, as well as supporting the national movement away from the potentially damaging effects of smartphones for young people.

This approach will be reviewed as we move through next academic year. A likely scenario is that the ban for Year 7 students will be continued for that year group as they move up through the school and put in place for younger year groups as they join.

Thank you in anticipation of your support with this policy.

Yours faithfully



Mark Surowiec, Headteacher